2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by the Republic of Korea

1. As stated in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the section entitled, "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", in paragraph 15, subparagraph 12, the Conference agreed on the submission of "regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on 'Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament', and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996". The Republic of Korea hereby submits an updated report to the 2010 Review Conference. The present report follows its regular report presented to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference in 2007.

2. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and that it is the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It is our conviction that maintaining the delicate balance among the three pillars of the Treaty is vital for its integrity and viability. To that end, it should be noted that nuclear disarmament is an indispensable part of the core bargain of the Non-Proliferation Treaty; the disarmament obligations of nuclear-weapon States laid out in article VI of the Treaty are therefore fundamental to the full implementation of the Treaty.

3. As a non-nuclear-weapon State, the Republic of Korea continues to abide by its commitment pursuant to the Treaty not to receive the transfer of, receive control over, manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In September 2004, with the adoption of the "Four Principles on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy", the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its commitment to respect all the international agreements on non-proliferation and, ensuring international confidence, pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

4. The decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the Final

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Document of the 2000 Review Conference marked a significant achievement in the field of nuclear disarmament. The guidelines laid out in the documents serve not only as a measuring stick to gauge progress in this field, but as a road map towards achieving the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, the Republic of Korea supports the full implementation of these agreements. However, considering that there are some elements that are no longer relevant in the current international security environment, the Republic of Korea believes that, at the upcoming Review Conference, States parties should review the past agreements and identify various ways to bring these documents up to date, reflecting the current reality and with a view to further strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime.

5. The Republic of Korea recognizes the efforts made thus far by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals. However, there still appears to be a gap between the records of nuclear-weapon States and the expectations of the non-nuclear-weapon States. Thus, it is imperative to pursue efforts to close this perception gap and restore trust between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. Mindful of the grand bargain that the Non-Proliferation Treaty stands on, as indicated above, while non-nuclear-weapon States should strengthen their commitment to non-proliferation, nuclear-weapon States should do their part by making real progress on nuclear disarmament. In doing so, nuclear-weapon States can enjoy moral authority and the political legitimacy to strengthen non-proliferation norms. The Republic of Korea therefore urges all nuclear-weapon States to implement their obligations under article VI in good faith.

6. In this regard, the Republic of Korea welcomes the recent agreement on the new START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, which was signed in Prague on 8 April 2010. It believes that, with time-bound commitments to deeper nuclear cuts, the new START Treaty will serve as a meaningful step towards nuclear disarmament and could contribute to generating fresh momentum for the success of the 2010 Review Conference. The Republic of Korea also notes with satisfaction that the Nuclear Posture Review recently announced by the United States Government is aimed at reducing the role of nuclear weapons in its nuclear doctrine and guaranteeing security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States. It also welcomes voluntary commitments to nuclear disarmament by other nuclear-weapon States and encourages them to redouble their efforts. In addition, it is encouraging to note that some initiatives, such as the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the global zero vision, have revitalized discussion on nuclear disarmament at the international level.

7. As the Non-Proliferation Treaty faces unprecedented challenges, such as cases of non-compliance, the heightened threat of nuclear proliferation and the potential nexus between terrorists and weapons of mass destruction, there is an urgent need for the international community to bolster the Non-Proliferation Treaty-based international non-proliferation regimes. The Republic of Korea fully supports Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), a landmark document that clearly sets out the overarching tasks ahead of us in the coming years and fully endorses the goals stated therein. Moreover, the Republic of Korea welcomes the successful Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., on 12 and 13 April 2010 and remains committed to playing a vital role, as host of the next summit in 2012, to further strengthen nuclear security as well as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

Step 1: The importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

8. The early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is essential for the eventual total elimination of nuclear arsenals. By prohibiting nuclear testing, the Treaty has the potential to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, both vertically and horizontally. In this regard, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to an early entry into force of the Treaty and calls for the early signing and ratification of the Treaty by those States that have not yet done so, in particular the nine States listed in annex 2 whose ratification is required for its entry into force.

9. The Republic of Korea, as an original signatory to the Treaty, has been a strong advocate of a complete ban on nuclear testing. It welcomes the progress since the last Review Conference, with 7 countries having signed and 30 countries having ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It further welcomes the commitment made by the United States Government to "immediately and aggressively pursue the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

10. The Republic of Korea also supports the biennial Conference stipulated in article XIV of the Treaty, and the ministerial meeting, as specific efforts to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In its efforts towards achieving the entry into force of the Treaty, the Republic of Korea has done its part, in close cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. It hosted the regional technical training programme and regional on-site inspection introductory course in 2008 and plans to host another seminar in 2010. In addition, the Korean Seismic Research Station is in full operation as a primary seismological station, thereby contributing in meaningful ways to the proper functioning of the verification system.

Step 2: A moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of that Treaty

11. It is important that all countries, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, maintain a moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Republic of Korea welcomes the commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing declared by nuclear-weapon States and the reconfirmation of that commitment by the United States Government in its Nuclear Posture Review.

12. It is deplorable that, in 2006 and 2009, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea broke the global moratorium on nuclear testing, which had lasted about a decade. The announced nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea demonstrated the urgent need for a legally binding ban on nuclear tests. It is the view of the Republic of Korea that a voluntary moratorium, although important, cannot replace the legally binding commitments that would be undertaken through the signing and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Republic of Korea has therefore continued to urge those States that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty to do so at the earliest possible time.

Step 3: The necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years

13. The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament agreements. It shares the view that, together with the CTBT, a fissile material cut-off treaty is an essential building block to complement and strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. In this connection, it is often said that a fissile material cut-off treaty can serve not only as a guarantor of nuclear non-proliferation but also a precursor to nuclear disarmament.

14. The Republic of Korea believes that the Conference on Disarmament should embark on negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty immediately and without preconditions, bearing in mind the 1995 Shannon mandate without prejudice to the outcome on verification. It is regrettable that, although the Conference agreed upon its programme of work in May 2009 for the first time in a decade, it failed to commence substantive discussions. With the firm belief that the time is ripe for negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty in the Conference on Disarmament, and given the strong support expressed for such a treaty in the past several years, the Republic of Korea strongly urges the States members of the Conference to show flexibility and a spirit of cooperation, with a view to working out this year's programme of work and commencing negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the earliest possible time.

15. It should also be stressed that, pending the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty, all States should declare or observe a moratorium on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes.

Step 4: The necessity of establishing in the Conference on Disarmament an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work that includes the immediate establishment of such a body

16. The Republic of Korea hopes that the early adoption of a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament will also have a positive effect on the endeavours to establish a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament. It has been constructively participating in the discussions on all substantive issues on the Conference on Disarmament agenda, including nuclear disarmament issues, and will continue to do its part.

Step 5: The principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures

17. It is the view of the Republic of Korea that irreversibility is one of the fundamental principles in nuclear disarmament measures. The irreversible reductions of nuclear weapons can only ensure that redeployment will not be possible. The

Republic of Korea shares the view that the principle of irreversibility should be applied in all disarmament and arms control measures.

Step 6: An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to the nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI

18. The Republic of Korea continues to highlight the importance of reaffirming commitments to the total elimination of nuclear arsenals by nuclear-weapon States. It considers the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to achieve the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI, as one of the major achievements of the 2000 Review Conference. While acknowledging the efforts made thus far by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals, the Republic of Korea has been encouraging them to further continue their efforts in that respect.

19. Considering that well over half of existing nuclear weapons belong to the Russian Federation and the United States, the Republic of Korea welcomes the concrete measures undertaken by the two countries, in particular the recent agreement on a new START Treaty.

Step 7: The early entry into force and full implementation of START II and the conclusion of START III as soon as possible while preserving and strengthening the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in accordance with its provisions

20. The Republic of Korea welcomes the new START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States. It believes that the new START Treaty will serve as a meaningful step towards global nuclear disarmament and contribute to generating fresh momentum for the success of the 2010 Review Conference.

Step 8: The completion and implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency

21. The Republic of Korea encourages the completion and implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States, the Russian Federation and IAEA. Efforts could be made to expand this Initiative to all nuclear-weapon-capable States, as an important step in the direction of international control of excessive stocks of fissile material and to explore creative ways to make use of fissile material for peaceful purposes.

Step 9: Steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all

22. The implementation of these steps is primarily the responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States. Nevertheless, the Republic of Korea fully supports these measures and continues to make the case for advancements in its implementation. The Republic of Korea takes note of the commitments to deeper nuclear cuts by nuclear-weapon States.

23. The nuclear-weapon States are required to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their nuclear doctrines and work towards reducing non-strategic nuclear weapons, as part of overall nuclear disarmament. As a matter of principle, transparency should be applied to the entire process of disarmament and arms control efforts.

Step 10: Arrangements by all nuclear-weapon States to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes, to ensure that such material remains permanently outside military programmes

24. The Republic of Korea supports such arrangements by the nuclear-weapon States.

Step 11: Reaffirmation that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control

25. The Republic of Korea is actively participating in international efforts to control weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means as well as conventional weapons. As a State party to all major disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and conventions and major export control regimes, it believes that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Step 12: Regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996

26. The Republic of Korea believes that national reporting on the implementation of nuclear disarmament measures enhances transparency and builds confidence and therefore should be encouraged. It encourages both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to submit regular reports to the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference. In particular, there is a need for the nuclear-weapon States to submit more detailed information on their implementation in order to ensure a higher level of confidence.

Step 13: The further development of the verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world

27. The Republic of Korea supports the further development of the verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with the nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.